

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**III. REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3-7 and 10 have been amended. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Furthermore, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In response, Applicants respectfully contend that all features as recited in the claims are shown in the figures. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3-7 and 10 to clarify the claims. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Carlson (US Patent No. 6,117,093), hereinafter "Carlson." Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Welles (US Patent No. 4,415,856), hereinafter "Welles." Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Carlson and further in view of Miwa et al. (US Patent No. 6,420,667), hereinafter "Miwa." Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Carlson and further in view of Rosenberg et al. (US Patent No. 6,956,558), hereinafter "Rosenberg." Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being

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unpatentable over Carlson and further in view of Naghavi et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0057152), hereinafter "Naghavi."

With respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that Carlson fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, including "a gap between the rotary knob and the magnetic circuit is filled with a magnetorheologic fluid." (See claim 1.)

As admitted by the Office, Carlson allegedly discloses a rotary knob via element 40 (see e.g., Fig. 1)(Office Action, page 4). Further, the Office alleges that fluid 84 in Carlson is magnetorheologic fluid (see e.g., Fig. 8)(Office Action, pages 4-5). However, there is clearly no gap between handle 40 and *any* type of magnetic circuit in Carlson. (emphasis added). As figure 8 in Carlson clearly shows, the location of where magnetically controllable medium 84 is disposed is within cavity 68. Clearly, cavity 68 in Carlson is **not** between handle 40 and any magnetic circuit. (emphasis added).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Carlson fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

With respect to dependent claims 2-14 Applicants submit that these claims are allowable based on their dependency from an allowable independent claim. The dependent claims are also believed to be allowable based for their own additional features.

IV. CONCLUSION

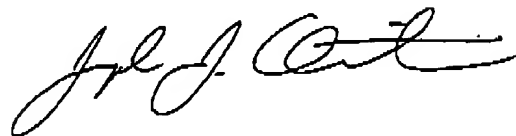
In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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